

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **February 19, 2003**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-30. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Arnold (USPN 6,275,848, hereinafter "Arnold"). Claims 3-5, 8, 13-15, 18, 23-25, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of Eldridge et al. (USPN 6,397,361, hereinafter "Eldridge"). Claims 6, 16, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of Pollack (USPN 6,505,236, hereinafter "Pollack") in further view of Trenbeath et al. (USPN 6,324,587, hereinafter "Trenbeath") in further view of Birrell et al. (USPN 6,092,101, hereinafter "Birrell"). Claims 7, 17, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of Birrell.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent claims 6, 16, and 26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of Pollack. Applicant respectfully points out that while Pollack teaches notifying the sender when the recipient has retrieved the stored attachment, Pollack **does not teach deleting** the stored attachment upon receipt of this notification (see Pollack, col. 3, lines 3-25, and col. 2, lines 41-43). Additionally, Pollack does not teach notifying the sender or deleting the stored attachment when the recipient has **deleted the e-mail message**.

In contrast, the instant invention discloses deleting the stored attachment upon notification that the **attachment has been retrieved** by the recipient, or upon notification that the **e-mail message has been deleted** by the recipient (see page 11, lines 5-17 of the instant application). Deleting the stored attachment upon notification that the attachment has been retrieved by the recipient is advantageous because deleting the stored attachment retrieves storage space that has served its purpose. Deleting the stored attachment upon notification that the e-mail message has been deleted is advantageous because deleting the stored attachment retrieves storage space that may never have been accessed because the recipient deleted the

e-mail message without retrieving the attachment. There is nothing within the cited references, either separately or in concert, that would suggest an advantage for deleting the stored attachment upon notification that the attachment has been retrieved by the recipient, or upon notification that the e-mail message has been deleted by the recipient.

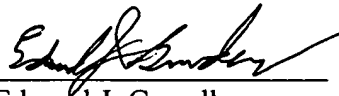
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to include the limitations found in dependent claims 6, 16, and 26, respectively of deleting the stored attachment upon notification that the attachment has been retrieved by the recipient, or upon notification that the e-mail message has been deleted by the recipient. Dependent claims 6, 16, and 26 have been amended to remove these limitations.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-20, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-30, which depend upon claim 21 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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